

Claims

1. A system for accessing supplemental network-resident information about an audio/video program comprising:

a network connection through which network-resident

5 information may be obtained;

a speech recognizer receptive of a user's input speech request for information about a program;

a natural language parser coupled to said speech recognizer for extracting a semantic representation of the user's request for information;

10 a data store for storing a representation of an electronic program guide;

a search engine commander coupled to said parser for issuing at least one search request to at least one search engine through said network connection based on said semantic representation and based on
15 said electronic program guide; and

a search results processor for receiving search results in response to said search request and for providing at least a portion of the received search results to the user as information about an audio/video program.

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2. The system of claim 1 further comprising, speech synthesizer coupled to said search results processor for providing the user with synthesized speech information about an audio/video program.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said network connection provides connection to the internet.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said search engine accesses at least one predefined site containing information about predefined topics pertaining to an audio/video program.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said search engine commander includes a user profile data store for storing historical data about prior requests by the user for information.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said search engine commander includes a mechanism for updating the contents of said electronic program guide data store.

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7. The system of claim 1 wherein said natural language parser includes a set of predefined goal-oriented grammars.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said natural language parser includes a data store for storing a set of grammars that are downloaded through said network connection.

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